

Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society

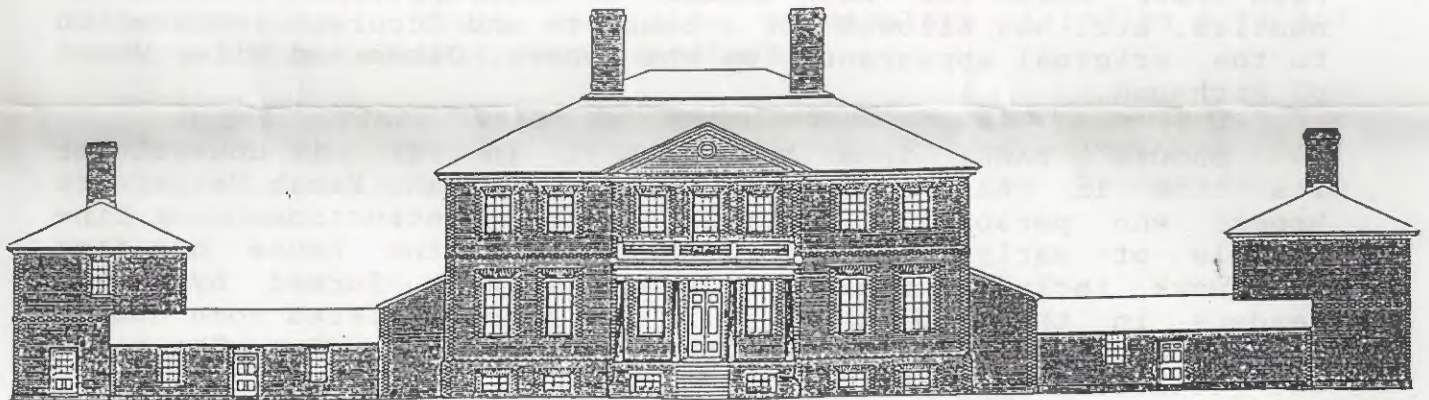
Fall - 1988

NEWSLETTER

Fall Calendar

September 8 - October 9 - Suffolk Museum -
Nansemond Indian Exhibit
September 10 - 11 - Nansemond Indians Celebration
September 13 - October 30 - Suffolk Art League at
Riddick's Folly
September 24 - Historical Society - Blandfield tour
*October 2 - FALL MEETING - Indian program
October 15 - Riddick's Folly - Montpelier tour
December 4 - Candlelight tour - Riddick's Folly

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BLANDFIELD

SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND
HISTORICAL SOCIETY - presents a bus trip to:

BLANDFIELD, BROOKE'S BANK AND MOUNT AIRY

Don't miss this outstanding opportunity to view three extraordinary private homes on this tour which benefits the restoration of Longwood House in Farmville. The tour is limited to 23 participants, on a first-come first-serve basis.

COST: \$23.00 for Members (those who have paid their current dues
due June 1st, 1988)
\$26.00 for non-members

For Reservations and details of parting time, etc., call Becky Ritter at Riddick's Folly, 934-1390.

DEADLINE; September 12, 1988

MOUNT AIRY: Built by the wealthy planter John Tayloe, II in 1758, this remarkable house has never left the family. There is evidence that William Buckland oversaw the execution of some of Mount Airy's woodwork. The Palladian style house, built of stone, was remodelled during the 1840's in the Greek Revival style following a fire. Despite many changes, Mount Airy is one of the finest mansions in Virginia.

BLANDFIELD: Robert Beverly, the second wealthiest Virginian at the time of the Revolution, built this mansion circa 1770. He built Blandfield in an unusual and sophisticated Palladian plan with a two-story main block with four corner rooms divided with stair passages and large center hall and saloon. The original interior woodwork was removed during the 1840's during a remodelling. Recent investigation of the house has revealed much about what this house originally looked like. This, combined with order forms for such things as wallpaper, fabrics, marble mantles, etc. has allowed for a complete and accurate restoration to the original appearance by the owners, James and Wiley Wheat of Richmond.

BROOKE'S BANK: This house, built in 1751, is unusual for its time in that it was built for a woman, Sarah Taliaferro Brooke who personally supervised its construction. A fine example of early Georgian architecture, the house has fine brickwork, including unusual diamond patterns formed by glazed headers in the two chimneys. The house suffered some damage during the Civil War from the Union gunboat "Pawnee". The house was restored during the 1930's.

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The fall meeting of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society will be held at the Suffolk Museum on Sunday, October 2, at 3:00 p.m. Our speaker will be Mr. James Pritchard, Nansemond County game warden and student of Nansemond Indian history. A number of Mr. Pritchard's Indian relics will be on display at the museum so we will be able to learn about them as we see them.

PLEASE ATTEND AND BRING A GUEST!

Our thanks to Mr. James Byrd for his work on our behalf regarding the Indian Exhibit.

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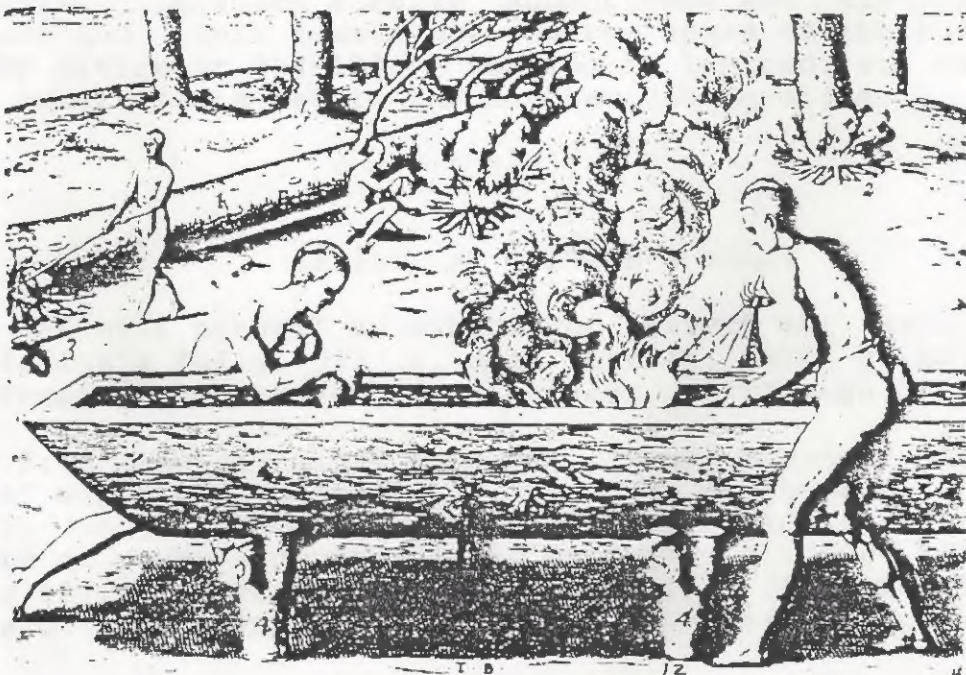
Return of the Nansemond Indians to their Ancestral Homeland

On September 10th and 11th an exciting event will occur on Dumpling Island and at Lone Star Lakes Lodge. In 1608 the Nansemond Indians supplied corn from their storehouses on Dumpling Island to feed the hungry English settlers at Jamestown. In 1988, during this festival there will be a symbolic return of the corn to the Indians. This will take place in a private ceremony on Dumpling Island and the corn will be presented by Eric Speth, Ships Master of Jamestown Festival Park and will be received by representatives of the newly reorganized Nansemond Indian tribe.

While that ceremony is not open to the public, the grounds at Lone Star Lodge will open to the public on both days at 11:00 a.m. Guests may enjoy Indian dances performed by a number of Indian dance groups as well as militia demonstrations and a Peace Pipe Ceremony. There will also be displays of Indian arts and crafts and an exhibit from Jamestown.

Eight tribes will be represented - the Pamunkey, the Mattaponi, the Eastern Chickahominy, the Chickahominy, the Upper Mattaponi, the United Rappahannock Indians, the Nansemond, and the Monacan.

THE MANNER OF MAKING THEIR BOATS



This event is being sponsored by the Nansemond Indian Tribe, the City of Suffolk - Suffolk Museum, the Sister Cities Commission, and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. For additional information contact Janet Kitchen, Director, at the Suffolk Museum, 934-3111.

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TRIP TO MONTEPELIER

The Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society and Riddick's Folly are co-sponsoring a trip to Montpelier, home of James Madison in Orange, Virginia, on Saturday, October 15th. A mini-bus will leave from the Safeway parking lot across the street from Riddick's Folly at 8:30 a.m. Participants will stop for lunch at the Hidden Inn, a Victorian inn outside Orange. Our meal there will include a special sampler plate, with sesame noodles, chicken tarragon, egg and tuna salad, carrot muffins, choice of dessert, and a beverage. From there it is on to Montpelier, where the tour includes a film, a trolley ride around the grounds, and a tour of the house. The bus will return to Suffolk between 6:00 and 6:30 that evening. The cost of \$25.00 per person includes all transportation costs, lunch and tip, and admission to Montpelier. Riddick's Folly subscribers and Historical Society members and their guests may reserve space on the bus by calling the RF office at 934-1390. Seating is limited, so call and make your reservations before the October 7th deadline.

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EXHIBIT AT RIDDICK'S FOLLY

SAL will present an exhibit of artwork and small furnishings at Riddick's Folly, 510 N. Main Street, that coincide with the timeframe of the house beginning Sept. 13 through Oct. 30.

From the Virginia Museum, "Winslow Homer: The Formative Years" will offer a look at 28 wood engravings from Harper's Weekly and Appleton's Journal that provide a unique pictorial record of rural and urban life during the late 1850's to the early 1870's. Homer's subjects range from Civil War vignettes to nostalgic farm activities and the middle class at play to hunting

nostalgic farm activities and the middle class at play to hunting scenes in the Adirondacks.

From the collections of local antique lovers and dealers, we will have on exhibit examples of furniture and other art pieces from the 1800's.

In conjunction with this exhibit, SAL will sponsor "In Pursuit of Happiness: Jefferson and the Arts," a lecture by William Rasmussen, Assistant Curator of American Art to 1900. Having observed the "sweetness of living" in France in the Age of Enlightenment, Jefferson saw the arts as integral to happiness. Our nation's pursuit of happiness through the arts as envisioned by Jefferson will be the subject of the talk.

-from Suffolk Art League Newsletter

Lecture Date: September 28th, 1988

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1608

Captain John Smith Explores Nansemond River

Prepared by Oliver L. Perry, Sr.

July 15, 1988

Captain John Smith first entered the Nansemond River in August 1608 and described the Nansemonds as a proud, warlike nation. He located the four villages of NAND-SA-MUND, MAT-TA-NOCK, TERACOSICK and MAN-TOUGH-QUE-MEN-O located on both sides of the river. The river was described as a musket shot wide with a narrow channel three fathoms deep. Smith describes his slow progress along the river and notes the island (Dumpling) that would be convenient for a fort.

When he approached the Western Branch of the river, Captian Smith observed the high plains, abundance of houses, people and 1,000 acres of most fertile, sweet and pleasant ground. He saw large corn fields on the mainland, and on the island was an abundance of corn. One of the "savages" invited Smith to his house and told him his house was on the island.

As Smith followed a canoe further up the river, seven or eight canoes full of armed men appeared and the first of many hostile encounters erupted. Captain Smith reported arrows came so fast from each side of the river "as two or three hundred could shoot them and those in the canoes let fly also as fast." When Smith and his men fired their muskets, most of the Indians leaped overboard and swam ashore. It was their experience with gun fire and they found that muskets shot further than bows.

Smiths men seized the canoes and secured them in the open waters. Having seen the large Indian force and suspecting it might be both the Nansemonds and Chesapeakes, Smith thought it best to take time to consider the next course of action. should they burn all on the island or take all the corn, which was adequate to feed all the Colony (Jamestown)?

During the lull, Smith began to cut the canoes into pieces, whereupon the Indians put down their weapons and made signs of peace. Captain Smith then stated he would accept peace if they brought the King's bows and arrows, a chain of pearls and when we come again give us **FOUR HUNDRED BUSHELS OF CORN**. If not, he would burn their corn, houses, all they had and break all their boats. The Indians put away their bows and arrows and brought corn.

John Smith notes that he took all they could carry and departed good friends. The **FRIENDLY** force arrived back at Jamestown on September 7, 1608.

-courtesy of Suffolk Museum